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SDC-Gender Equality Network

SDC GENDER EQUALITY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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Gender & Climate Change

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

As always, our first newsletter of the year is published on the 8th of March, the International Women's Day (IWD). The World Economic Forum recently predicted that it will take as long as 2133 to achieve global gender equality. In response to this disturbing outlook, IWD has adapted its slogan for this year as "Pledging for Parity". Everyone can pledge to take a concrete step to help accelerate gender parity.¹ We are glad to work with you on pledging for parity in our daily work.



In this edition, we would like to take a closer look at the nexus between gender and climate change. The successful conclusion of the Paris Agreement at the Climate Conference (COP21) in December last year is still fresh in our memory. The agreement includes reference to gender-equality and the empowerment of women. Read more about gender and climate change and about the SDC project in our focus article by Rupa Mukerji from HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation.

Another breakthrough concluded by the international community last year was the adoption of the new agenda for sustainable development - the Agenda 2030 - with its 17 goals and 169 targets. The Agenda 2030 will be the guiding topic of our F2F Event, organized by Gendernet and the Conflict and Human Rights Network, from 30th May to 3rd June 2016 in Lausanne, Switzerland. We look forward to seeing most of you there. You will find more information on the F2F in this newsletter.

This newsletter also provides more information on the capitalization process of the SDC programmes on gender-based violence which entered into the final phases with a workshop in Sarajevo in February 2015. Finally, we will give you a brief overview of the gender results of the SDC annual reports of 2015. It is good to see how SDC's work on gender and women's empowerment is getting more visibility and appreciation in the annual reports.

I wish you a good read!

Sarah Koch
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¹ www.internationalwomensday.com

Climate Change consequences have a female face

Rupa Mukerji, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Climate change affects women and men in different ways due to their distinct roles in the economy and society. A recent study by the World Bank² estimates that climate change could push back over 100 million people into poverty over the next fifteen years – and women constitute the majority of the world's poor, their livelihoods dependent more on natural resources, rendering them more vulnerable to climate variability and change.

Women produce 60 to 80%³ of the food in developing countries. In many cultures women are the repositories of traditional agricultural knowledge and practices such as seed diversity and managing agro biodiversity. This knowledge and their powers of observation are an important resource for adaptation to impacts of climate change. Adaptation measures that are effective often include actions that improve access to land, water, inputs, information and decision making spaces. When adaptation measures are gender responsive, they can also address entrenched factors of gender based inequalities. Measures to mitigate climate change can have significant gender benefits such as through improved energy technology, investments in public transportation, and gender responsive communication technologies. But these are inadequately tapped. Only 19%⁴ of financing for mitigation is targeted at gender equality at present. The participation of men and women in climate policy platforms remains skewed at all levels – from national to global. These are areas of particular attention in the future.

Success through gender-responsiveness – an example from Peru

The SDC Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change in Peru (PACC) is implemented in the high altitude Andean region. Since 2009, it seeks to strengthen the livelihoods of the poor and to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. Initially, the project lacked a specific gender focus in its design; however, throughout implementation, the adoption of gender sensitive strategies have led to several gender relevant actions and lessons – thus enhancing the impacts of the project.

In the Andean regions of Peru, 59% of the rural population is poor and 24% extreme poor, as per the national statistics⁵. Livelihoods are based on agriculture, both livestock rearing and farming, and are dependent on natural resources. Weather conditions are harsh, the ecosystem is fragile; all of which combine to make communities and their livelihoods highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Andean communities also face several structural inequities due to low political organisation and voice. Operations of extractive industries that wield a high degree of power further disrupt livelihoods and community organizations and pose new environmental threats. Moreover, migration of men and youth to urban areas weakens the community further. In this situation, rural livelihoods, agriculture, as well as poverty, have an increasingly female face.

Women's situation in the Andean community

With large scale male migration over the years, women are the mainstay of the agrarian economy. They are engaged in subsistence agriculture with small holdings. Their leadership in economic and resource management activities is increasingly recognized. Nevertheless, they have limited access to resources such as land, rural extension, credit or basic services including health care. Historically, women were often excluded from community decision-making processes. However, migration dynamics now result in women increasingly replacing men in these decision-making spheres. Women play a central role in the care economy although this is not monetized and therefore large parts of their work remain invisible. Given the division of economic activities and its exposure to climate risks, rural Andean women are one of the most vulnerable groups to the current and future climate impacts in Peru.

² Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty. Climate Change and Development Series. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2016

³ Women in Agriculture, Closing the Gender Gap for Development. FAO, 2010 – 2011

⁴ Climate Finance in 2013-14 and the USD 100 billion goal. OECD. 2015

⁵ [Evolución de la pobreza monetaria 2007-2012](#). Informe técnico. Lima, Mayo, 106 pp.

Good practices of gender-responsive climate actions

The project started with diagnostic studies to understand the impacts of climate change. The studies involved women and their knowledge system regarding agriculture, observations about changes in weather patterns, belief systems, practices and assessment of their effectiveness. In order to harvest and scale up the most effective adaptation practices, a methodology of 'farmer contests' was adopted. Sole participation by women was supported and all participant families had to necessarily include the woman head of household. Women were also the ones who received the prize in case the family won. Mutual support between weaker groups such as the elderly or single headed households was also promoted. The project was flexible and the staff sensitive and open to adopt strategies that promoted women's participation, based on needs observed during implementation. The contests provided space to address women's priorities and also demonstrate their achievements. Systematic integration of childcare support in all project activities helped ensure women's equal access to training opportunities. Furthermore, training women farmers who could speak Quechua as expert trainers, made their skills accessible to many women farmers who speak only Quechua. About 1,200 women from 21 communities participated in farmer contests and nearly 900 of them received incentives and awards. Over 1,250 women participated in training courses and exchange visits (46% of all participants). A gender disaggregated monitoring system enabled the tracking of men's and women's participation and the adoption of the various adaptation practices.

Insights and lessons learned from PACC

Although the project was not designed with a specific gender focus, flexibility and a learning approach enabled the team to respond to women's needs and include a gender focus throughout the implementation. The fact that the project team is led by a woman and is gender balanced also created supportive conditions. Recent team reflections on gender equity has brought out the following lessons:

- A rights-based approach (e.g. right to water, land) can help address other structural factors which lead to gender inequality.
- It is crucial to monitor how the interventions affect the life of women/men respectively (gender-specific impacts), including women's work load – this gives a better understanding of the costs and benefits of the adaptive practices.
- The primary focus of the project was to bring climate change on the agenda at various levels. There was a trade-off between time that could be invested in this and in analysing and promoting gender considerations.
- Involvement of women and promoting female leadership is important; however, practice shows that men also need to be sensitized and included in the building of strategic alliances.

Conclusion

A climate change project must include a gender perspective, otherwise the gaps will expand. It is important to promote measures that help change the structural conditions of women's vulnerability. A gender sensitive climate vulnerability analysis and ensuring that it determines the interventions can lead to meaningful gender responsive actions. Projects need to have gender dis-aggregated outcomes and impact indicators for monitoring. Achieving gender equality requires conscious, constant work on wider gender relations, together with men in families and communities. Alliances need to be built at all levels. Let's harvest the lessons learned from the Peruvian Andes!

This article was written by Rupa Mukerji, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, based on the reflections of the PACC team led by Lenkiza Angulo.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Rupa Mukerji is the Co-Head Advisory Services and Member of the Management Board at HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. This article is based on the reflections of the PACC team led by Lenkiza Angulo.

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NEWS FROM THE GENDER FOCAL POINT & HEAD QUARTERS

COP21 - Gender and Climate Change

Last December at the COP21, 195 states agreed on the future framework on how the international community should tackle the consequences of climate change. Member States had night-long negotiations in Paris. Controversial issues were not only climate financing and the issue of the loss and damage compensation, but also on how strong human rights and gender equality should be mentioned in the document. Finally, the Paris Agreement makes references to gender equality, gender balance and empowerment of women in its (non-binding) preamble paragraph. Further, Gender-responsiveness is mentioned in two operational paragraphs: article 7 on adaption and article 11 on capacity building. Link to the [Paris Agreement](#).

Women's groups criticize the agreement in its insufficiency in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable countries and the missing language on gender equality in Article 2 which defines the purpose of the agreement. See [UNFCCC Women's Constituency](#).

At the COP21, Switzerland contributed to the organization of a side-event at COP21 entitled "From global commitments to local solutions: Integrating gender equality in climate change action", jointly with the OECD-DAC GENDERNET and the governments of France, Morocco and Peru. The event brought together inspiring actors who are driving gender-responsive climate action, from the local to the global level, in order to identify priorities for accelerating the effective integration of gender equality across the whole range of climate actions. Participants underlined the need to stay mobilized after the COP21 in the lead-up to the COP22 in Marrakech to ensure that gender equality and climate change stays high on the agenda and to transform commitments into action on the ground.



Panellists at the side-event Ambassador Ulrich Lehner (Switzerland), Mary Robinson (Climate Just Foundation and UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change), Pascale Boistard (French Minister for Women's Rights), Manuel Pulgar Vidal (Minister of Environment of Peru), Hakima El Haite (Minister Delegate in Charge of Environment of Morocco), civil society activists Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Chad) and Thilmeeza Hussain (Maldives), Rupa Mukerji (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation), and Christine Albanel (Executive Director for Corporate Social Responsibility at Orange).

Screening of Annual Reports 2015

This year, the SDC Gendernet at the HQ conducted a systematic analysis of the annual reports (ARs) with regard to gender results. Thanks to the great support from the Gendernet members, almost 40 ARs were analysed. All in all, gender had a good visibility in the ARs of 2015 and the quality and the relevance of the information had further improved. However, there are still great variations in the quantity, quality and the systematization of data. The majority of the ARs did contain sex-disaggregated data, however, they were not related to a baseline or to a specific context. Furthermore,

information about change-processes (how the results came about and what kind of changes they brought for the beneficiaries) was mostly absent. Therefore, the key recommendations based on the analysis are:

- 1) to analyse gender systematically in both the country context (What are the main challenges for women in the country?) as well as in the thematic context of the domain (i.e. How are women affected by the lack of sanitation? How do they contribute to water management?)
- 2) to analyse and assess results in order to understand the changes/improvements in relation to the baseline, and how the change affects women in their daily life. Is this an improvement? How does the intervention contribute to this result? Why is the number of women that low? What are the barriers?
- 3) make use of the momentum of the new Cooperation Strategies to conduct thorough Gender Analysis per Domain and define a key gender issue and a change hypothesis.

You can find more details on the findings of the AR screening 2015 and a number good practices in the summary report attached [here](#).

Workshop on SDC's Gender-based Violence work in Sarajevo

The workshop was held early February 2016 and was hosted by the Swiss Cooperation Office in Sarajevo. Participants were SDC programme managers and implementing partners from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Nepal, Bolivia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Based on the country reports and inputs from the previous consultation process, the workshop provided a unique opportunity to exchange experiences across countries and cultures and deepen our knowledge on key topics such as working with formal and informal authorities, or dealing with perpetrators or families. We identified key issues of a psychosocial approach to SGBV and discussed good practices and challenges concerning monitoring and reporting on GBV work. The results of the workshop will be used to produce a paper synthesizing the practical experiences of SDC-supported programs addressing SGBV, and for guiding future work on the topic. The launch of the report is planned at the F2F in Switzerland.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

SDC will participate in the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York from 14th to 24th March 2016. This year's priority theme is 'Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development'. SDC will be present at the CSW as part of the official Swiss delegation and support Switzerland's participation in the ministerial segment, in roundtable discussions, side-events and in the negotiation of the final document (agreed conclusions). One of the side-events Switzerland is co-organizing with OECD-DAC Gendernet and some other countries will be on gender and climate change making a link to the Paris Agreement adopted during the COP21 last December. Link to the [60th Session of the CSW](#)

Global Gender F2F in June 2016

The joint F2F by the Gender and the Conflict and Human Rights Net will take place from 30th May to 3rd June in Lausanne. The main topic is the Agenda 2030 and the challenges related to generating results according to the goals and targets of this new agenda – with the specific focus on goal 5, "Achieving gender-equality and empower all women and girls", and the goal 16 on "Peaceful and inclusive societies". The overall programme is built around the three pillars that focus on how to improve and work with our tools and instruments such as gender and conflict analysis, the guiding policies and frameworks and specific topics such as gender & state building. We will have both joint as well as separate sessions with each network. As a preparation for the event, we are additionally planning an E-discussion with the two networks in April. A more detailed programme and information on registration will follow shortly.

More information: More information on all the above texts can be obtained from Ursula Keller, SDC Head Quarters, Senior Gender Policy Advisor, ursula.keller@eda.admin.ch

News from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid

A new specialized group for protection, including SGBV, was founded in January 2016 in Swiss Humanitarian Aid. The corps consists of ca. 700 people who are on call in time of need. More

deployments of SGBV experts to the field as well as for strategic assignments are envisioned. Further information on the group will follow.

More information: Sascha Müller, SDC Head Quarter, Gender Focal Point Humanitarian Aid Division., sascha.mueller@eda.admin.ch



MEMBER OF THE GENDER TEAM: SASCHA MÜLLER

Dear readers and colleagues, it is a pleasure to introduce myself to you all. Since May 2014, I have been the Gender Focal Point of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Domain at SDC. My work focuses on mainstreaming gender into Swiss humanitarian action and on strengthening Swiss Humanitarian Aid's engagement in sexual and gender-based violence. Before taking up my current assignment in March 2014, I spent around ten years in the field, working for the ICRC, UN agencies and the FDFA (as Human Security Adviser in Sri Lanka and Vietnam). Knowing that our colleagues in the field, and in particular the gender focal points and senior management, play a crucial role in making our engagement more gender-responsive, I am happy to provide whatever support is needed from HQ.

CONTACT: Sascha Müller, SDC Head Quarters, Gender Focal Point Humanitarian Aid Division, sascha.mueller@eda.admin.ch

NEWS FROM MEMBERS OF THE GENDER EQUALITY NETWORK

Mongolia

Landmark Swiss-Mongolian dance production challenges gender stereotypes

"Aqafire", a production of the Arts Council of Mongolia, examined patriarchy, democracy and gender equality through the eyes of both men and women, and challenged the gender stereotypes associated with national cultural identity. This was a cutting edge production combining dance, music and video art that explores different perceptions of gender equality. In conjunction with the performance, the Arts Council of Mongolia hosted an Artsee⁶ talk series on gender equality and stereotypes with the production team, a gender-equality activist and other professionals. It was the first Swiss-Mongolian collaborative performance staged in Mongolia. See [SDC Local News](#) for more information.



Poster created for "Aqafire" - Swiss-Mongolian dance production in Mongolia

"Girls' Day" as good practice in international career guidance

The "Girls' Day" approach was introduced to Mongolian vocational educational schools and centres through the GIZ Project 'Vocational Skills Development' which is co-financed by SDC and the Australian government. So far, five partner schools have successfully conducted six "Girls' Day" events to promote Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) among girls from secondary schools, putting a special focus on gender and inclusion. This approach was acclaimed as a good practice in gender mainstreaming, especially concerning the target group, activities, monitoring and the success factors.

More information: GIZ publication "Career Guidance World-Wide" (page 27), SDC Cooperation Office Mongolia, Erdenesaikhan.Nyamjav@eda.admin.ch

Kyrgyzstan

Gender Action Plan 2016-2017

In agreement with the SDC Gender Policy and SECO Gender Equality Guidance, and in line with the recommendations elaborated during the Mid-Term Review 2015, the Embassy of Switzerland in the Kyrgyz Republic has developed a Gender Action Plan for 2016-2017 to reaffirm its commitment to promoting gender equality and to translate it into action. Many discussions and debates have preceded the adoption of the Gender Action Plan; nevertheless, a lot more effort will be required from the staff and project partners to put it into practice. Learning sessions on gender and a continuous exchange of ideas with relevant stakeholders are supposed to support and guide the process of the plan's implementation.

More information: [Gender Action Plan 2016-17 Kyrgyzstan](#), Embassy of Switzerland in Kyrgyzstan, elena.zakirova@eda.admin.ch

⁶ A word created to describe a discussion on a certain topic

Bolivia

Study allows women to understand their role and empower themselves in the watershed management

The Integrated water management Project, supported by the Swiss Cooperation in Bolivia, is carrying out a study that attempts to find out the integration of the gender perspective into watershed management at the local scale. Fifteen micro-watersheds will be studied for this purpose. The research findings will identify barriers that limit the participation of women at the watershed committees (OGC in Spanish). In these committees, usually male members decide on the water, soil and forestation practices that will be carried out in the catchment and the coordination mechanisms with the municipality and other traditional peasants' organizations. Currently 32 OGC exist in Bolivia where women's participation has not yet been fostered. Saavedra Ordóñez, Vice President of the Municipal Council of San Pedro in the municipality of San Pedro de Buena Vista, pointed out the importance of women's active participation in the management of the basin. Hence, the authorities too are encouraging the empowerment of women in the management of watersheds in the district and in the municipality in order to ensure the sustainability and to institutionalise the watershed management.



More information: SDC Cooperation Office Bolivia, Rigiana.Portugal@helvetas.org

PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS & LINKS



Gender and Climate Change – Policy & Overview Documents

At the Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) in December 2015 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal (see also News from the GFP & HQ). In the following you find the relevant policy documents as well as overview resources on gender and climate change:

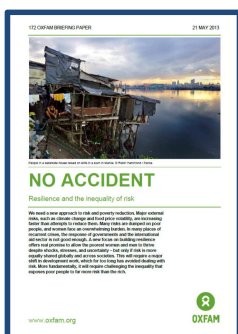
UN: [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (1992)

COP 21: [Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (2015)

Women and Gender Constituency: [Position Paper on the 2015 New Climate Agreement \(2015\)](#)

ELDIS: [Introductory Guide to Gender and Climate Change](#) (Web Resource)

BRIDGE: [Gender and Climate Change. Overview Report](#) (2011) (already mentioned in last Newsletter)



Gender and Climate Change – Research and actions against climate change

The way in which people are affected by climate change depends strongly on their position in society and, linked with it, also on gender norms. Several research has been done on gender and climate change and different actions taken, some of which we highlight below:

OECD – DAC: [Making Climate Finance work for Women. Overview of the Integration of Gender Equality in Aid to Climate Change](#) (2015)

World Resources Institute: [Building Climate Equity. Creating a New Approach from the Ground Up](#) (2016)

Women and Climate: [Climate Justice and Women's Rights. A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women's Actions](#) (2015)

CGIAR: [Closing the Gender Gap in climate-smart Agriculture](#) (2015); [Adaptation Actions in Africa. Evidence that Gender matters](#) (2014)

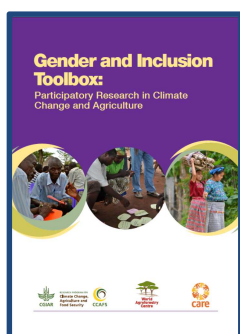
OXFAM: [No accident. Resilience and the inequality of risk](#) (2013)

CARE: [Gender Dynamics in a Changing Climate. How Gender and Adaptive Capacity affect Resilience](#) (2015); [Tackling the Double Injustice of Climate Change and Gender Inequality](#) (2014)

Nordic Development Fund / Asian Development Bank: [Training Manual to support country-driven climate change](#) (2015) (this publication was recommended by Raida Nimrat from COOF Jordan)

Huariou Commission: [Community Resilience at Scale: Grassroots Women demonstrating successful Practices](#) (2015)

Civil Society Initiatives: [Global Gender and Climate Alliance](#); [Women's Environment & Development Organization \(WEDO\)](#); [Women and Gender Constituency](#)



Gender and Climate Change – Toolkits and Gender Action Plans

On national level, the number of policies and action plans on gender and climate change is growing. Some of them we mention here:

IUCN: [Gender and Climate Change Action Plan \(ccGAP\) Initiative](#)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community: [Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit. Tools for Practitioners](#) (Draft)

CGIAR: [Gender and Inclusion Toolbox: Participatory Research in Climate Change and Agriculture](#) (2014)

Green Climate Fund: [Gender Policy and Action Plan](#) (2015)



CSW60: Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development

From 14 to 24 March 2016 the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the UN Headquarter in New York with representatives of member states, UN entities and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGO's) from all regions of the world (see also News from GFP & HQ). We would like to share with you some of the preparatory publications and the zero draft of the outcome document:

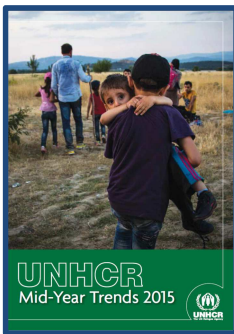
CSW 60: [Official link of the session](#)

Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme: [Women's empowerment and the links to sustainable development](#) (2015)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review theme: [Review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (2015)

Agreed Conclusions: [Zero Draft Agreed Conclusions of the 60th session](#) (2016)

CSW: [Agreed conclusions of the 57th session for the review theme](#) (2013)



Refugee Women and Girls

The year 2015 exceeded all previous records for global forced displacement, exceeding 60 million for the first time ([UNCHR, Mid-Year Trends Report 2015](#)). Conflicts in Syria, Jemen, Mali and elsewhere continue to generate an enormous human suffering. More people have fled their homes than at any time since the Second World War. Internally displaced and refugee women and girls refugees are not only vulnerable to increased risks of gender-based violence, but are central to galvanising resilience and hope in extremely difficult contexts. There are several very impressive and touching publications, policy documents, films and other resources worth looking at in this context:

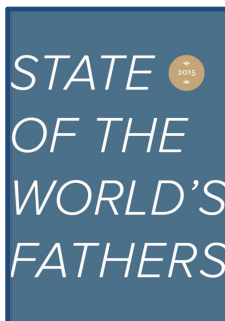
CEDAW Committee: [General Recommendation 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women](#) (2014)

ELDIS: [Human Rights for Refugee Women and Girls](#) (Web Resource)

UNFPA: [Women and Girls in the Syria Crisis. Facts and Figures](#) (2015); [Breaking the Silence. Hope for a New Life. Stories of Women and Girls benefiting of the UNFPA Regional Response to Syria Crisis](#) (2015); [Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies](#) (2015)

UNHCR: [The Malala of Syria](#) (Film)

Women's Refugee Commission: [Freedom from Violence for Refugee Women](#) (Short film)



Engaging Men & Boys for Gender Equality

For the advancement of gender equality a critical element is the engagement of men and boys. There are several publications, initiatives and networks worth looking at in this context:

CSW 59: [Panel on 'The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality'](#) (2015)

UN Women: [Men, masculinities and changing power](#) (2014), [HeForShe Campaign](#) (Website)

MenCare: [State of World's Father Report](#) (2015)

MenEngage Alliance: [Boys and Men for Gender Equality](#) (Website)

IDS: [ELDIS-Web Resource on engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality](#) (Web Resource), [Engendering Men. Evidence on Routes to Gender Equality \(EMERGE\) initiative](#) (Website); [Evidence Summary](#) (2015); [Evidence Report](#) (2015); [Case Studies for community engagement and advocacy](#) (Website)



Violence against women and girls

Three of our network colleagues want to draw attention to resources on violence against women and girls. Eric Kalunga from COOF Dar es Salaam sends us the feature film 'Aisha' on gender violence and AIDS whose production was supported by SDC. The story is about a young woman who faces up to a society that turns a blind eye to violence against women. Sascha Müller from HQ, Humanitarian Aid, sends us the link to a training opportunity organized by the Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH) and funded by SHA as well as a publication by IFRC. Futher, Chantal Felder from HQ West Balkan Desk shares a resource by DFID on violence.

Film on gender violence in Tanzania: [Aisha](#) by Uzima kwa Sanaa (UZIKWASA).

Training: [Sexual violence in conflict and emergency settings: thematic seminars for mid-level and senior managers.](#)

IFRC: [Unseen, unheard: Gender-based violence in disasters Global study](#) (2015)

DFID: [Part A: Addressing Violence against Women and Girls through DFID's Economic Development and Women's Economic Empowerment Programmes; Part B](#) (2015)